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FARM PRODUCTION INTERESTS

In 1947, 15,694,463,000 sietya were spent to increase agricultural production, 23,672,025,000 sietya in 1948, and in 1949 it is estimated that 43,078,449,000 sietya will be expended for this purpose.

These figures are taken from the national budget and show that the government is making an intense effort to raise the level of Polish agriculture. The small farmer is being included in the general plan of reconstruction and development and the production of the small farm is being increased as well as that of the estate farms. At the same time, the country is being adequately supplied with food.

Agricultural production showed a great improvement in 1948. Poland is one of the few European countries whose bread-grain production is sufficient to supply domestic needs. It is expected that in 1949 all neglected land will be put under cultivation and productivity per hectare will be increased. The program of contract raising of hogs is expected to increase animal production. Although it is difficult to foresee how many plans will be realized, the important point is that from a disorganized economy Poland has arrived at a planned economy with great possibilities in the future.

In the past, the Investment Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture laid great stress on production to supply the working masses with the basic foods, bread and potatoes. The emphasis this year is on intensive agricultural production. The appropriation for organizing farm machine centers is twice as large as last year and the appropriation for artificial fertilizer and quality seeds three times as large.

It is expected that about 15,000 tractors and thousands of seeders will be put in use this spring, and that 530,000 hectares will be put under cultivation to fibrous and oleaginous plants, sugar beets, and hops. Hop production so far has been insufficient to supply domestic industries. In 1949 more than half a million scions of hops were imported from Czechoslovakia and the area of hop gardens will be increased to about 840 hectares.

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